Beekeepers of Volusia County FL Club Officers:

October 2018

Fair Update: Honey Show entries will be dropped off between 3pm-5:30pm on Wednesday, September 31, 2018; not Tuesday the 30th as was previously announced. If you need special arrangements for drop-off see Tim before the drop off deadline. The Fair runs from Thursday November 1st thru Sunday, November 11th, 2018.

President:	Dennis Langlois
	Dennis2021@yahoo.com 407-330-8542
Vice-president:	Marlin Athern
Secretary:	vacant
Treasurer:	Tim Blodgett
Web Site/computer	Stephen McGehee
News Letter:	Vacant
Refreshment Spvr:	Elizabeth Langlois/volunteers & donations welcome

September 2018 News Letter: The next meeting of the Beekeepers of Volusia County will be October 24, 2018 at 6:30 pm. Volusia County Ag Center Auditorium, Fair Grounds, 3100 E. New York Avenue, Deland, Florida 32724.

Beekeepers of Volusia County Club Meeting

Minutes of 09/26/2018

Called to order by President Dennis Langlois @ 6:30pm

- FSBA president Jennifer Holmes was a no-show
- Discussion regarding mite killer borrow program.
- Donna Athern provided back ground and history regarding the Volusia County Fair and our club participation in it. Volunteer lists were started and available at the back of the room. Sign-up for volunteers to man our booth in the Talton Building will continue at the next meeting. Arrangements are being made to include live bee observation hives. Donna asked for input to further enhance our display which has received rave reviews in all years past. Many ideas were discussed including content and advertizing.
-Donna asked for all materials that will be used be brought to the next meeting since she will be organizing set up. Any pictures can be submitted in digital format through Tim or directly at the meeting.

Treasurer's report:

Balance: $ 483.73

35 in attendance

Meeting Adjourned 8:00 pm

Agenda for October 24 meeting:

Donna Athern: re: Volusia County Fair

(Edited)Reprint from Seminole County Bee Club

A Letter from the President,

October 2018

Thanks to Dr. Leo Sharashkin for speaking to our group at our October 3, 2018 meeting on Natural Beekeeping and Horizontal Hives at Calico Creek Millworks, 110 Tech Drive, Sanford, FL 32771. Again, his website (including free hive plans)is: www.HorizontalHive.com. You can order his books there.

Dr. Sharaskin is editor of Keeping Bees with a Smileâ€□ and â€œKeeping Bees in Horizontal Hives,â€• comprehensive books on natural beekeeping.

If anyone would like to be a mentor to newbies, please let me know. For those needing honeybees or equipment, D&J will be at our Wednesday, November 7, 2018 meeting at 6:30 p.m. Please order from D&J, by telephone, a few days before the meeting to pick them up in the meeting parking lot. Checks are accepted at time of pickup.

The fall flow is on in full swing. Brazilian peppertree, golden rain tree, goldenrod and Spanish needle are all in full bloom. Make sure our supers are on and you are ready to get your fall crop.

Check out the Beekeeping Calendar in the October email to see what's blooming. After you pull your supers, which should be anytime, everyone needs to be checking for mites.

Remember that the apprentice level Master Beekeeper Program is online, so you don't have to travel to take the courses and tests!

The Florida State Beekeepers Association held its Annual Conference and meeting in conjunction with UFHBREL Bee College in Gainesville, FL on October 12-13. Annual elections were held at the FSBA Conference on October 13th. Both events sold out.

Please contact Chris Stalder at Chris@floridabeekeepers.org to receive FSBA news and information for state association events.

Have a Sweet Day,
Dennis Langlois, President Dennis2021@yahoo.com 407-330-8542

Natural Beekeeping: Dennis then introduced Dr. Leo Sharashkin. He talked about the history of beekeeping going back 200 years ago.

He said that feral bees can live six years with no care. He spoke about how bees are not allowed to go through natural selection here. He said the best bees come from nature herself.

A Russian beekeeper named Levitsky never split bees. He just caught swarms. He wrote Keeping Bees with a Smile. He put empty boxes in trees 10-15ft high due to predators. He caught 77 swarms a year in the Northwest.

Dr. Sharashkin said that there is a free swarm catching guide on his website. He said that the following are used as bee lures: propolis or lemon grass essential oil in a small dose. The latter catches more bees. He said that bees smell is 100 times more powerful than ours. A 10 frame, light colored, Langstroth hive, with a top vent, is the right size to place at the edge of woods, to catch swarms.

Dr. Sharashkin told about what he painted on a hive to keep hunters from shooting it. It was ˜Honey Bees for children's community project"

He said that scout bees can travel for miles. Bees go from 100 yards to a ¼ mile to forage due to competition. One frame of honey will feed a swarm until spring. He said that his Bee TV has a setup of his hive. Hives kept at 100ft apart are better to prevent the spread of disease. Put entrances in different directions. He said that beekeepers have been painting hives for 100 years. He said you could put an X or W over the hive entrance for bees to identify.

Tom Seeley doesn't use miticides. Bees with resistant traits only strong survive.

Horizontal Hives: Less management required on horizontal hives. You could do it once a year! The bees put honey away from the entrance. You don't have to have a queen excluder. Top bars of horizontal hive will be hot if they have brood. Put propolis traps on top of horizontal hive. You can sell propolis at $10.00 an ounce!

Dr. Sharashkin talked about his daughter being on the cover of *Acres* beekeeping magazine. She is 17 years old and has never been stung.

Thirty frames are in a horizontal hive. Dr. Sharashkin removes honey after the first frost. The bee population is smaller and easier to work than a Langstroth hive. The original Langstroth hive was double walled. It is important to have good insulation in warm climates. The frames he has are 14" long x 16" deep. They are

narrow and very deep. There is foundation made for drone control. Top bar hives get congested easily and then swarm. The amount of honey is the same amount as the Langstroth.

Sumac is Dr. Sharashkin's primary crop. He said it is sweet. He said he can't separate frames of honey by color and flavor. He doesn't feed sugar, no chemicals and he can sell honey at $20/lb. His website is horizontalhive.com .

A Q&A was held.

Bees prefer a diversity of wildflowers. Have bees work 10 frames and then put in a divider. You can run a 2 queen system. Have three entrances. Can have split in horizontal hive. Missouri inspectors only come out if they suspect disease. Dr. Sharashkin said he makes 20 lbs. honey per hive. He talked about Robert Page. The Spirit of the Hive. You can spoil bees taste by feeding sugar water. It limits their nutritional diversity. It is better to look at origins of root cause of condition. He said that you can transfer existing bees in Langstroth hives into a horizontal hive.

1914 American Bee Journal has online issues. Horizontal hives are used in Florida.

Dennis talked about bees he sees in removals. Splitting twice a year gets mite count down. Dr. Sharashkin has a honey press he talked about. He presses the dark comb and it has great flavor. Queens prefer dark comb except over three years old. He said that his honey improves with age regarding recrystallization.

He talked about crops that bloom in Missouri. In March, red bud trees bloom, in April, blackberries, dandelion, plums, in June, Sumac, in August, asters and blazing star bloom. He said that goldenrod adds flavor to honey.

Dr. Sharashkin talked about his bee workshops. He said he has 200 hives. He will

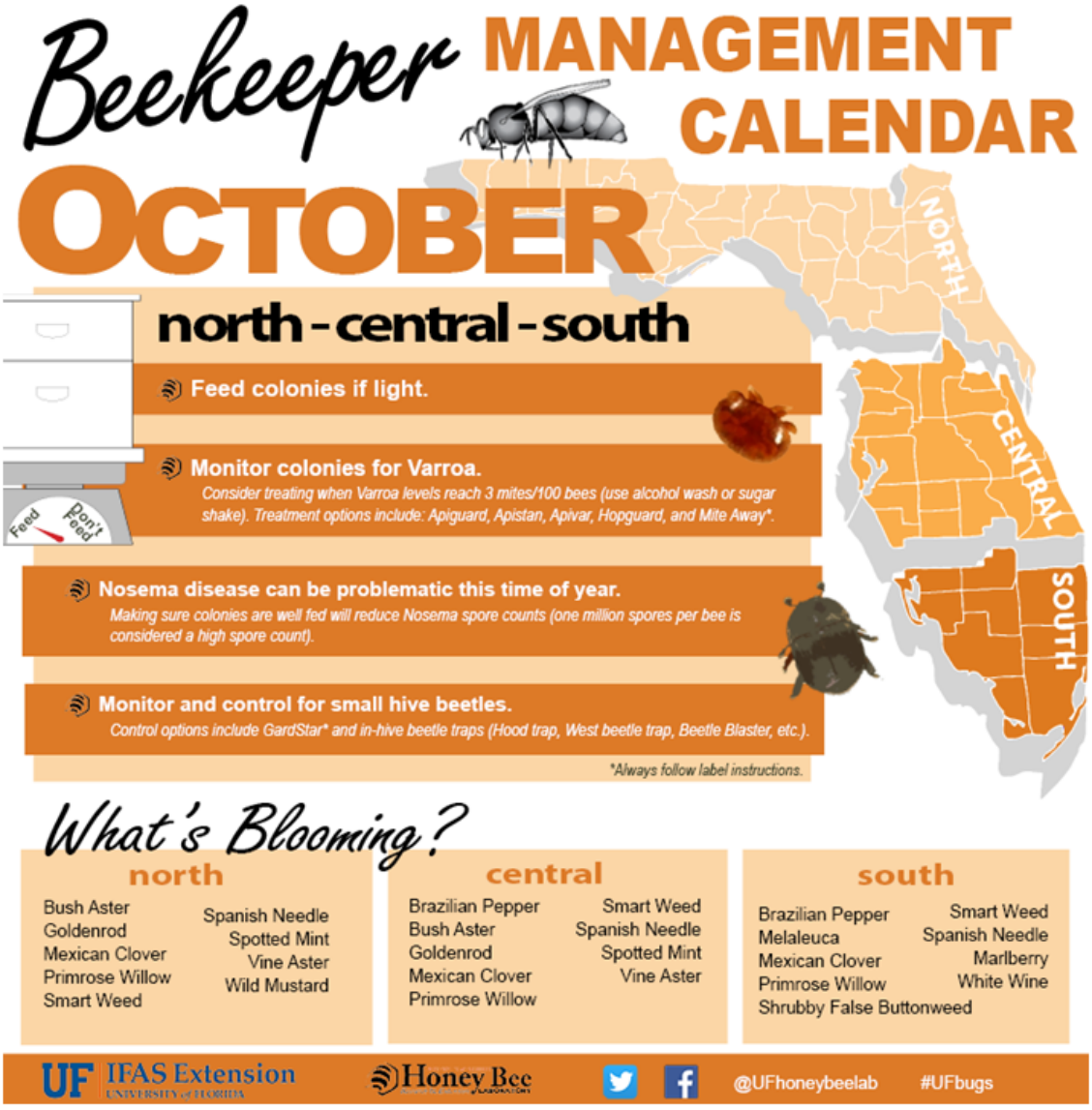
do a bee removal tomorrow with Dennis and will be on Beeremovalexpert.com.

His talk ended at 9:15 p.m. He continued to answer questions and sold his books.

Announcements:

2018 Bee College was great! There was heavy emphasis on varroa management and everything having to do with Queens. Also a lot of hands-on demonstrations including live queens to practice on. The event was impressive. A donation was made to Dr. Jaime Ellis at the Bee Lab in Gainsville from our club thanks to the sale of honey donated by Jesse Azam of S&S Apiaries New Smyrna Beach FL. **Thank you Jesse Azam for your generous donation.**

FYI:
A Sharing Table is authorized at each meeting for members to give away or sell items at the back of the room.



Monthly recurring reference materials:

-Readily available common kitchen Refractometer water content calibration oils:

Sunflower oil (Sainsbury's) 25.0%

Olive oil regular (Sainsbury's) 27.2%

Olive oil regular (Bertolli) 27.2%

Olive oil, Spanish extra virgin (Sainsbury's) 27.0%

Olive oil, Italian extra virgin (Filippo Berio) 27.0%calibrating a refractometer. Owing to the remarkably consistent properties of Extra-Virgin Olive Oil, one drop of it on

the slide will always read between 71 and 72 on the Brix scale. If you set the lock-nut to show any such oil at 71.5, you will have correctly calibrated the water content scale at the same time.

Queen color codes:

2018, 2023 red, 2019, 2024 green 2020 purple, 2021 white, 2022 yellow

Common Honey Bee Races in North America

Italian—Apis Mellifera Lizustica—Most popular bee—gentle & good producers—prone to rob & drift

Cordovan—Subset of Italian—slightly more gentle, more likely to rob, light tan in color easy to find queen.

Caucasian—Apis Mellifera Caucasica, silver gray in color, tend to propolis excessively. About same productivity as Italians.

Carniolan—Apis mellifera carnica—dark brown to black, better in northern climates. Less productive than
Italians

Russian—Apis mellifera caucasica—mite Resistant, a bit defensive, Swarminess and productivity are a bit more unpredictable. Traits are not well
fixed.

Buckfast—a mixture of bees developed by Buckfast Abbey. Similar to Italian bees, fast spring build up, resistant to tracheal mites Reference—Bushfarms.com/bee races

***Michigan hygienic, University hybrids & ankle biter varieties not readily available from most local producers are not listed.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

DIVISION OF PLANT INDUSTRY

BUREAU OF PLANT AND APIARY INSPECTION
APIARY INSPECTION SECTION

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR MAINTAINING
EUROPEAN HONEY BEE COLONIES

1. This is a voluntary program designed to minimize the threat of Africanized Honey Bees (AHB) in Florida and to dilute any feral AHB populations that may become established in Florida as our gentle managed colonies are our best line of defense against AHB.

2. Beekeepers participating in this program must sign a compliance agreement with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

3. Beekeepers will maintain a valid registration with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services/Division of Plant Industry (FDACS/DPI), and be current with any and all special inspection fees.

4. A Florida apiary may be deemed as EHB (European Honey Bee) with a minimum 10% random survey of colonies using the FABIS (Fast African Bee Identification System) and/or the computer-assisted morphometric procedure, ie. universal system for the detection of Africanized Honey Bees (AHB) (USDA-ID), or other approved methods by FDACS on a yearly basis or as requested.

5. Honey bee colony divisions or splits should be queened with production

queens or queen cells from EHB breeder queens following Florida's Best Management Practices.

6. Florida beekeepers are discouraged from collecting swarms that cannot be immediately re-queened
from EHB queen producers.

7. Florida Beekeepers should practice good swarm prevention techniques to prevent an abundance of
virgin queens and their ready mating with available AHB drones that carry the defensive trait.

8. Maintain all EHB colonies in a strong, healthy, populous condition to discourage usurpation (takeover) swarms of AHB.

9. Do not allow any weak or empty colonies to exist in an Apiary, as they may be attractive to AHB swarms.

10. Recommend re-queening with European stock every six months unless using marked or clipped queens and having in possession a bill of sale from a EHB Queen Producer.

11. Immediately re-queen with a European Queen if previously installed clipped or marked queen is found missing.

12. Maintain one European drone source colony (250 square inches of drone comb) for every 10 colonies in order to reduce supercedure queens mating with AHB drones.

13. To protect public safety and reduce beekeeping liability do not site apiaries in

proximity of tethered or confined animals, students, the elderly, general public, drivers on public roadways, or visitors where
this may have a higher likelihood of occurring.

14. Treat all honey bees with respect.

Florida Beekeepers are required to register their hives Annually. We advise members to be proactive towards registration for many reasons and especially because it is simply the cheapest liability insurance policy you will ever buy. The following is the Fee Schedule per number of hives:

Number of Colonies	Fee
1-5	$10
6-40	$20
41-200	$40
201-500	$70
501+	$100

Payment for hive registrations can be made by mail or online. Go to www.freshfromflorida.com

BEST MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR MAINTAINING EUROPEAN HONEY BEE COLONIES ON NON-AGRICULTURAL LANDS:

The colony density limits in areas not classified as agricultural pursuant to Section 193.461, Florida Statutes, below, minimize potential conflict between people and honey bees and beekeepers following the BMRs outlined in this document. The honey bee colony requirements /densities may not be exceeded except under a special permit issued by

the Director of the Division of Plant Industry in accordance with the requirements of Rule 5B-54.0105(3), F.A.C.

1.

The placement of honey bee colonies on non-agricultural private lands must agree to and adhere to the following stipulations:

A.

When a colony is situated within 15 feet of a property line, the beekeeper must establish and maintain a flyway barrier at least 6 feet in height consisting of a solid wall, fence, dense vegetation or combination thereof that is parallel to the property line and extends beyond the colony in each direction.

B.

All properties, or portions thereof, where the honey bee colonies are located must be fenced, or have an equivalent barrier to prevent access, and have a gated controlled entrance to help prevent unintended disturbance of the colonies.

C.

No honey bee colonies may be placed on public lands including schools, parks, and other similar venues except by special permit letter issued by the Director of the Division of Plant Industry and written consent of the property owner.

2.

Honey bee colony densities on non-agricultural private land are limited to the following property size to colony ratios:

A.

One quarter acre or less tract size - 3 colonies. Colony numbers may be increased up to six colonies as a swarm control measure for not more than a 60 day period of time.

B.

More than one-quarter acre, but less than one-half acre tract size - 6 colonies. Colony numbers may be increased up to 12 colonies as a swarm control measure for not more than a 60 day period of time.

C.

More than one-half acre, but less than one acre tract size -
10 colonies. Colony numbers may be increased up to 20 colonies as a swarm control measure for not more than a 60 day period of time.

D.

One acre up to two and a half acres - 15 colonies. Colony numbers may be increased up to 30 colonies as a swarm control measure for not more than a 60 day period of time.

E.

Two and a half to five acres - 25 colonies. Colony numbers may be increased up to 50 colonies as a swarm control measure for not more than a 60 day period of time.

F.

Five up to 10 acres
50 colonies. Colony numbers may be increased up to 100 colonies as a swarm control measure for not more than a 60 day period of time.

G.

Ten or more acres –100 colonies. The number of colonies shall be unlimited provided all
colonies are at least 150 feet from property lines.

3.

Beekeepers must provide a convenient source of water on the property that is available to the bees at all times so that the bees do not congregate at unintended water sources.

4.

Beekeepers must visually inspect all honey bee colonies a minimum of once a month to assure reasonable colony health including adequate food and colony strength. If upon inspection honey bees appear to be overly aggressive the beekeeper shall contact their assigned apiary inspector for an assessment.

5.

Re-queen collected swarms, new colonies and maintain colonies with queens or queen cells from EHB queen producer(s).

6.

Practice reasonable swarm prevention techniques as referenced in University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences extension document "Swarm Control for Managed Beehives", ENY 160, published November 2012.

7.

Do not place apiaries within 150 feet of tethered or confined animals or public places where people frequent. (Examples - day care centers, schools, parks, parking lots, etc.)

8.

Do not place colonies in an area that will impede ingress or egress by emergency personnel to entrances to properties and buildings.

9.

Deed restrictions and covenants that prohibit or restrict the allowance for managed honey bee colonies within their established jurisdictions take precedence and as a result supersede the authority and requirements set forth in Chapter 586 Florida Statutes and Rule Chapter 5B-54, Florida

Administrative Code. It shall be presumed for purposes of this article that the beekeeper is the person or persons who own or otherwise have the present right of possession and control of the tract upon which a colony or colonies are situated. The presumption may be rebutted by a written agreement authorizing another person to maintain the colony or colonies upon the tract setting forth the name, address, and telephone number of the other person who is acting as the beekeeper.